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ANCIENT RUINS IN SONORA, MEXICO.

Ancient ruins have recently been discovered in Sonora, which, if reports are true, surpass anything of the kind yet found on this continent. The ruins are said to be about four leagues southeast of Magdalena. There is one pyramid which has a base of 1350 feet, and rises to the height of 750 feet; there is a winding roadway from the bottom leading up on an easy grade to the top, wide enough for carriages to pass over, said to be twenty-three miles in length; the outer walls of the roadway are laid in solid masonry, huge blocks of granite in rubble work, and the circles are as uniform and the grade as regular as they could be made at this date by our best engineers. The wall is only occasionally exposed, being covered over with debris and earth, and in many places the masonry and other indigenous plants and trees have grown up, giving the pyramid the appearance of a mountain. To the east of the pyramid a short distance is a small mountain, about the same size, which rises about the same height, and if reports are true it will prove more interesting to the archaeologist than the pyramid.

There seems to be a heavy layer of species of gypsum about half way up the mountain, which is as white as snow, and may be cut into any conceivable shape, yet sufficiently hard to retain its shape after being cut. In this layer of stone a people of an unknown age have cut hundreds upon hundreds of rooms from 6x10 to 16x18 feet square. These rooms are cut out of the solid stone, and so even and true are the walls, floor and ceilings to plumb and level as to defy variation. There are no windows in the rooms and but one entrance, which is always from the top. The rooms are about eight feet high from floor to ceiling; the stone is so white that it seems almost transparent, and the rooms are not at all dark.

On the walls of these rooms are numerous hieroglyphs, and representations of human forms with hands and feet of human beings cut in the stone in different places. But, strange to say, all the hands have five fingers and a thumb, and the feet have six toes. Charcoal is found on the floors of many of the rooms, which would indicate that they built fires in their houses. Some implements of every description are to be found in and about the rooms. The houses or rooms are one above the other, but three or more stories high; but between each story there is a room, or recess the full width of the room below, so that they present the appearance of large steps leading up the mountain.

Who those people were, what age they lived in, must be answered, if answered at all, by the wise men of the east. Some say they were ancestors of the Mayas, a race of Indians who still inhabit southern Sonora, who have blue eyes, fair skin and light hair, and are said to be a moral, industrious and frugal race of people, who have a written language and know something of mathematics.

Success and Failure.

On the whole I am content that my husband should be one of the world's many failures, for there is no man more charming than the unsuccessful one. When he fails, he consoles himself with day-dreams of what might have been, or might still be—dreams brighter by far than the prosaic reality could ever prove. If he has any good in him, his many disappointments have made him tolerant, pitiful, helpful. He stands aside and watches with kindly eyes, those who are starting in the race of life, full of the courage and confidence which once were his. He helps many a young fellow to win where he himself has lost, and his advice has all the wisdom of a dearly bought experience, his counsels the humility of one who has known the bitterness of disappointment. On the other hand, the successful man is often cold, hard, and arrogant. Why should other men fail when he has succeeded so well? It must be their own fault; they are wanting in energy, in talent; clearly there is something wrong about them. Do you suppose he had no difficulty to encounter, no hard work to go through? Thus he boasts, forgetful of the watchful Providence that protected him, forgetful also of the kind and helpful hands that held the light aloft when his path was darkest, and pushed aside the stones that would have made him fall. Besides, how few men are successful in all things, and all through life! A large book, and I think a very sad one, might be written on the latter days and death of great men. Solomon's oft-quoted "Vanity of vanities, and all is vanity," is but one instance among a thousand; and we ourselves, if we have been behind the scenes of life's drama, know what a Dead Sea apple prosperity often proves, and what terrible skeletons are sometimes hidden beneath the gold and silver in rich men's cupboards. Really and truly when I think the matter over, Envy steals away abashed, not having a leg to stand upon; and I feel nothing but the tenderest compassion for the poor, ill-used, unfortunate, envious man. I have never had the honor of knowing a royal personage—no, not even a dethroned one—but I feel certain that their smile must be full of bitterness when they hear the old saying, "As happy as a king." As to us, who are not kings or even "Princes of this world," let us also smile when we hear of other people's prosperity; not a bitter, envious smile, but one full of sympathy with our neighbor's success, and also of content with the less brilliant lot which gives so many compensations to the world's poor unsuccessful ones.—*Sour Grapes.*

An English doctor avers that he has found fasting from four to eight days to be a specific cure for rheumatism. No medicines are given under this treatment, but the patient is allowed water and lemonade in moderation.

Life in the Polar Regions.

It is impossible to form an idea of the tempest in the polar seas. The icebergs are like floating rocks whirled along a rapid current. The huge crystal mountains dash against each other, backward and forward, bursting with a roar like thunder, and returning to the charge until losing their equilibrium they tumble over a cloud of spray, upheaving the icebergs, which fall afterwards, like the wreck of a ship-lash on the boiling sea. The sea gulls fly away screaming, and often a black shining whale comes for an instant puffing to the surface. When the midnight sun grazes the horizon, the floating mountains and the rocks seem to be immersed in a wave of beautiful purple light. The cold is by no means so insupportable as is supposed. We passed from a heated cabin at thirty degrees above zero to forty-seven degrees below in the open air without inconvenience. A much higher degree of cold becomes, however, insupportable if there is a wind. At fifteen degrees below zero a steam, as if from a boiling kettle, rises from the water. At once frozen by the wind, it falls in fine powder. This phenomenon is called ice-smoke. At forty degrees the snow and human bodies also smoke, which smoke changes into millions of tiny particles like needles of ice, which fill the air, and make a light continual noise like the rattle of stiff silk. At this temperature the trunks of trees burst with a loud report, the rocks break up and earth opens and vomits smoking water. Knives break in cutting butter. At night the eyelids are covered with a crust of ice, which must be carefully removed before one can open them.

The Bed of an Eastern Prince.

Some time last year there was a wooden bedstead manufactured which was intended for the use of the King of Siam. It was fourteen feet wide and divided into three parts, the center part being raised about eighteen inches. This piece of furniture, being of such unusual dimensions, caused a slight sensation among all those who were permitted to examine it. But the bedstead made in Paris lately for an Indian prince would draw thousands to see it were it exhibited in New York, even if fancy prices were charged for admission. The bedstead is partly made of real silver, and cost many thousands of dollars. At each corner stands a beautifully modeled nude female figure (life-size) holding a delicately constructed fan. Each figure, it is said, wears a wig of real hair. This is to be regularly "dressed" by the court barber once a week. On the great mattress, this can be accomplished by the aid of a clock-like apparatus. Moreover, should the dusky owner of the bed wish to be lulled to slumber by the dulcet sounds of soft music, this can be done by touching a spring. The bottom of the bed contains a large musical box which is so arranged that the tunes can be loud or soft as desired.

Don't Be Too Credulous.

Don't believe all you read. Don't believe too quickly half you read. Don't believe anything as regards thought, opinion, or assertion till you have run it through the mill of your own judgment and see if it emerges without a flaw. Remember that a book is generally one man's talk on paper. Remember that his conclusions and deductions are often based on other men's statements which time may prove partly or wholly wrong. Remember that it is as easy to err with the pen as with the tongue. Remember that for two men to give the same account of the event of which both are witnesses is extremely rare. Remember that no conscientious scribe can read what he wrote twenty-five years ago without finding many opinions and assertions which will make him squirm and feel like hunting a hole to hide his head in. Remember that the man, be he writer or not, who all his days sticks to one opinion, simply because it is his opinion, ceases to grow intellectually and imprisons himself in his own dogmatism. Remember that the man who is searching for the truth must give up his mistaken convictions, no matter how dear they may be to him or how sorely it may hurt his pride to own up that he has been mistaken. Remember to apply all the foregoing remarks to this article after you have read it.

"If I Were a Girl!"

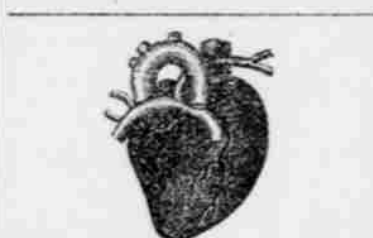
"If I were a girl," said a well-known New England clergyman recently, "I wouldn't parade too much in public places. He mentioned a number of other things that he would not do. He would not think too much about dress, or about parties, or fashionable society. But in regard to the folly of parading in public places he was particularly emphatic. A good many girls acquire the habit of parading the streets before they comprehend how objectionable it is. Their motive at first is simply amusement; afterwards they like thus to draw upon themselves the notice of others. But notice so attracted is seldom respectful, and the very young man who will look admiringly at the girls he meets under such circumstances will probably rejoice in his own heart that his sister is not among them.

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